

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-4 (cancelled).

Claim 5 (new). A method for ensuring the same order of messages in a plurality of data sinks (DS), according to the following steps:

transmitting data messages from a plurality of data sources (DQ) with identical message contents to the plurality of data sinks (DS') in parallel and independently of one another;

providing a time window in the data sinks for collection of the data messages from the data sources (DQ);

closing the time window by transmitting a S.sub.ON message to the data sources (DQ) by the data sinks (DS) and simultaneously opening a reception window for receiving the data messages when the time window is closed;

closing the reception window by transmitting a S.sub.OFF message to the data sinks (DS) by the data sources (DQ);

transmitting a consecutive token number to the data source (DQ) with the S.sub.ON message from the data sinks (DS); and

sending the token number back to the data sinks (DS) with the S.sub.OFF messages from the data sources (DQ), whereby a new data source is synchronized into a current operation.